



# Himalayan Echo



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NEPAL REGION NEWSLETTER

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## Regional Superior speaks...

A college professor was going to prove to his students that there is no God. He said, "God, if you are real then knock me out of this platform and I will give you fifteen minutes to do it." With every minute that went by he taunted at God, "God, I am still here, I am still waiting." At the last minute a 300 pound football player walking down the hall overheard him. He took off running, came toward him, put his shoulder down and sent him flying off the platform. The professor woke up in a daze, didn't know what to do, and he asked him, "What was that for?" The football player replied, "God said he was busy, so he sent me."

God comes to us at every moment in different forms and shapes whether we recognize him or not. I wish and pray that each one of us may have the grace to recognize the manifold manifestations of God to us in our daily life.

## Mary Ward, Lubhu

### Silver Bells Ring!



The year 2022 is a hallowed year for Mary Ward School, Lubhu, as we completed 25 years of loving and dedicated service in the field of girl-child education and women empowerment in Nepal. With deep love and profound gratitude to God, a Solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist was celebrated in the school hall

under the new truss decorated beautifully with colourful photo folders of 25 precious years!

The main celebrant of the Eucharistic Celebration was His Lordship Bishop Paul Simick along with Fr. Silas Bogatti, the V.G., Fr. Pius Perumana, the Chancellor, Fr. Stephen SDB and ten other priests.

Sr. Jessy in her introductory address said, "The world is full of angels. If you can't find one, be one. We are not born into this world merely as spectators to passively watch others living their lives to the full but in fact to



contribute to make the world a beautiful place to live in. Life presents before us golden opportunities to make the world a beautiful place by a kind deed, a warm smile, a genuine gesture of appreciation and unselfish love for the unloved and underprivileged and we believe that is the origin of Mary Ward School, Lubhu". Reading aloud the letter of appreciation of our General, M. Jane Livesey, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, Sr. Jessy concluded the welcoming note.

Bishop Simick in his homily highlighted the significance of salt and light and how we can become salt and light in the lives of many others. His Lordship connected the Gospel passage beautifully, appreciating the 25 years of CJ presence in Lubhu. He said that



we have been the light, salt and the house built on the hill top for the people of Lubhu and have served not only the Christians but everyone, irrespective of cast and creed.

Sr. Asha in her vote of thanks expressed gratitude to Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick, Srs. Jyoti and Savitha, the pioneers of this mission, Mr Michael Penzkofer, Mr Michael Rabelle, Mr



Carl Rebelle, Mr Wolf Gang, Nepalhilfe Aham and Nepalhilfe Belingries – the sponsors and donors from Germany who in different ways supported the development of this institution. The help and support of Mr. Hari Govinda, our Mayor, and Late Mr. Arjun Bhurtel were remembered as they had stood by us in our challenging times with their influence and expertise.

Sr. Asha added that Mary Ward School was able to function and serve the society for the edu-



cation of the underprivileged due to the generous contribution of St. Mary's School, Jawalakhel, and ASMAN - Association of St. Mary's Alumnae. She also expressed our thankfulness to the Salesian Fathers who have catered to our spiritual needs over the years.

There was a felicitation programme immediately after the Mass. It was a moving experience to see the ex-students of Mary Ward School who have been serving the society and the nation in various fields as professionals, on the stage sharing their journey of life. The entire programme came to an end with a festive meal for all.

*- Sr. Nancy Edamamasseril*

### Silver Jubilee of Sr. Neelu

“Life should not only be lived; it should be celebrated”.

The above adage came true in the life of Sr. Neelu as she celebrated the silver jubilee of her committed religious life on 8th May, 2022.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Bishop Paul Simick and all the priests of Purwanchal Deanery. The presence of our sisters from different communities and many religious sisters of different congregations added colour to the celebration.

On this beautiful day, there was a deep sense of joy and satisfaction radiating from Sr. Neelu's smiling face. Sr. Marilyn, on behalf of Nepal Region, crowned Sr. Neelu with a silver crown appreciating her dedicat-



ed service as a nurse. It was a very innocent act of Sr. Neelu to remain the whole day with the crown, expressing her sincere gratitude to God who is ever faithful in leading her along these 25 years of her committed life.

All the CJ sisters are very much aware and acknowledge with love and gratitude Sr. Neelu's meticulous ways of communicating, readiness in carrying out any responsibility given to her, her melodious voice and her passion to teach children.

Sr. Jessy in her address recalled the unique giftedness of Sr. Neelu, very specially her dedication to Health Ministry and her selfless contribution in translating noble books from English to Hindi.

Sr. Neelu with her melodious voice sang her Magnificat as a response to the Word of God. The climax of the celebration was when Sr. Neelu recalled with tears her late Aama, who walked to Church daily holding her hands. With pride she claimed that this experience was the Foundation Stone for her Religious Call. Sr. Neelu summarised her day: "Every time I think of you, I thank my God for you".

—Sr. Smitha Innaci Muthu

### St Mary's, Kathmandu

The school had a staff orientation programme in preparation for the new academic



year. Fr. Binu Scaria SDB was the resource person who staged various games that yielded excellent results. The group work assisted the teachers in assessing their ability to counsel students.

Sisters led a short meaningful prayer and teachers were introduced during the Class I parent's orientation programme and thus the parents embarked on their path to become members of St. Mary's family. As the school resumed for the new academic year, it was lovely to see our students wandering about looking for their new section, leaving behind their old friends in search of someone familiar with whom they could feel at ease.

We were honoured to have Ani Choying Drolma, a well-known Nepali singer, who was



gracious enough to spend a couple of hours with our students. We also had an evening with her with a mega musical event with the theme "Heal the Earth". Our auditorium was filled with eminent guests.

(Ani Choying Drolma was born in Kathmandu to Tibetan refugee parents in 1971. Facing lots of suffering and pains in life, in order to get rid of the tragic destiny of a woman in male dominated society which she saw vividly in her



own family, the 13 year old Ani Choying Drolma decided to leave home alone to join a Tibetan Buddhist monastery.

Till today she has



launched 16 albums, and performed for hundreds of events around the world. She is not only a world-renowned singer but also a philanthropist. She is appointed as the first UNICEF National ambassador of Nepal. She described her singing ability as her magic wand that manifests numerous successful projects, including education, health, children's rights and women empowerment projects. Her voice is named as heavenly voice with healing power.)

On the 30th of May, our Catholic students and teachers gathered in our chapel to pray the



rosary. May our mother, Mary, lead our teachers and students to Jesus, her Son.

During the school's annual memorial award ceremony, chosen students were given awards and cash in a variety of categories in front



of their ecstatic parents. The award sponsors were kind enough to present the awards to the awardees with a lot of love and encouragement. All of these serve as motivation for our students to work harder.

The school organized a felicitation event for the newly elected chairpersons of Ward Nos. 3 and 4 of Lalitpur, Mr. Shree Gopal Maharjan and Mr. Santosh Khadka, as well as Mrs. Rajani Joshi (ex-student of St. Mary's), deputy mayor

of Bhakatapur municipality, and Mr. Chiri Babu Maharjan, mayor of Lalitpur metropolitan city.



The community is very happy to welcome five aspiring young girls as Candidates under the guidance of Sr. Vinita. Fr. Mathew Assarikudy SJ, their chosen spiritual father, celebrated Holy Mass and prayed for them. Our prayers are assured for the perseverance of their vocation.

— Sr. Karuna Shrestha

### St. Mary's, Biratnagar

We were happy to have our sisters from Sirsia for a fellowship meal with us on the occasion of the farewell and Silver Jubilee of Sr. Neelu. Srs. Amrita, Marina and Charlie set out on

a tedious journey for a special mission of fostering vocation. We are delighted to have two young aspiring members with us this year. The presence of our sisters from Patna on their way to Kathmandu for IBVM/CJ

Meet added colours of joy in our community.

St. Mary's Family Day was celebrated with



a meaningful prayer service on the qualities of a family. This was much appreciated by the teachers and their family members whereby a strong bonding began to be created.

We were delighted to have the presence of Fr. Roy SJ who paid a short visit to us. Our five candidates left for Kathmandu for further formation. We extend our thanks to them for the loving service rendered to us.

*- Sr Marilyn Murickal*

### Mary Ward, Lubhu

We opened the school for the new academic session with fresh enthusiasm. The cheery presence of the students once again in the campus gives us great joy and we entrust the coming year into the hands of God.

We warmly welcomed Sr. Neelu into our community and she has taken up the duty of being a class teacher of Class VII. There was a meaningful thanksgiving Holy Mass offered for Sr. Monica as she was missioned to St. Mary's, Pokhara. Thank you, dear Sr. Monica, for all your services rendered to Mary Ward Community for the last three years. Wish you all the best in your new mission.

Sr. Asha along with Sr. Antoinette joined the 125th anniversary celebration of St. Antony's School, Jeolikote, and enjoyed a short home visit too.

We had a short felicitation programme for our new Mayor, Mr. Hari Govind Shrestha,



who has stood with us right from the beginning of our school here. We were glad to have the Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Laxmi Maharjan, and Ward Chairperson, Dr. Biswora Shrestha,

along with the Mayor. They appreciated the contribution we make for the development of the society here.

On the Pentecost Day, in our Parish, thirty parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Rev. Bishop Paul Simick. Sr. Asha played an important role in preparing them spiritually to receive the sacrament.

The parish feast was celebrated with great festivity this time. We invited a few parishioners from our four neighbouring parishes and Ret. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick celebrated the Holy Eucharist along with five other priests. During the Mass six people received Baptism, Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Sr. Asha prepared all of them and the other parishioners for Confession. There was an 'Agape' for all after the Mass followed by a short cultural programme by the youth of the Parish and our hostel children too contributed to it with a lovely group dance.

*- Sr. Nancy Edamanasseril*

### St. Mary's, Gorkha

The new academic year began with a lot of excitement for all of us at Gorkha. The admission of boys to L.K.G made St. Mary's School,



Gorkha, a Co-education School as it was in the beginning years of its establishment. The parents of the newly admitted students had an orientation in our school hall on the first day of the school



during which they were briefed about the various rules and regulations of the school. It was challenging to keep the tiny tots calm and make them feel secure in the new surroundings. We were all kept on our toes by our little ones who for a few days kept crying and throwing tantrums. Gradually, by the end of the first week, most of them settled down and got accustomed to their new environment.

We were very happy to have Sr. Joseline CJ of Delhi Province with us for a very short visit. Sr. Joseline spent a happy evening reminiscing her past years at Gorkha. Sr. Veena went home to attend her brother's first death anniversary combining it with her home leave and returned refreshed.

All the students from classes I to X were busy with many literary activities such as Inter-house Choral Recitation competitions in Nepali as well as in English. It was interesting to see the students having rigorous practices during break hours to have their house win the competition.

– *Sr. Mariette Pinto*

### St. Mary's, Pokhara

The new Academic Year started off with an orientation for the teachers by one of the Brahma Kumaris, Sudha Didi, and she dealt with stress management and peaceful living. As every year the first mega event of the school is the Investiture Ceremony and it was held in the first week of May.



The FMW – Students' and the Teachers' Units visited Vatsyayan – an old age home situated in Pokhara - with provisions and spent three quality hours with them. The students organized a short program to entertain them and to make them happy. It was indeed a heart touching experience to be with them and to hear their life experiences. The next day the students shared their experience in the assembly and advised the Marians on the importance of loving, respecting, honouring and taking care of their parents and grandparents in their old age.

We were happy to welcome Sr. Monica, our new community member, and she is getting



adjusted to the new place and the students. Sr. Deepa attended a spiritual renewal program at De Nobili College, Pune, with her batch mates as they couldn't come together for the Jubilee preparation. Sr. Catherine took a week off to become part of the "Becoming One" process in Nainital.

– *Sr. Deepa Olikunnel*

### Mary Ward, Sirsia

The months of May and June began with a lot of activities in the community as well as in the school. Our co-workers were honoured on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Srs. Marina and Charlie went to Manipur to fetch a candidate and also visited many parishes in and around Manipur for vocation fostering.

We were blessed to have the presence of our sisters from Patna, who came for CJ/ IBVM meeting in Kathmandu. They joined us for a fellowship meal.

"Farming is not just a job; it's a way of life." The community was very busy along with our hostel students in harvesting the maize and

threshing them with a machine. The hard work always pays back in hundredfold, and this year we were blessed to have lots of fruits and vegetables.



On the international nurses' day, Sr. Neelu left Sirsia after serving 11 years in various capacities such as a nurse and teacher. Dear Sr. Neelu, the precious long years that you spent in this mission serving all of us will ever be etched in our hearts. We wish you God's abundant blessing as you move towards new horizons.

The visit of our Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Leopoldo Girelli, to our parish in Sirsia



was a great blessing and joy for all of us. His Excellency offered a Solemn Mass for all of us. Our students gave a felicitation programme which was followed by a fellowship meal together at Don Bosco.

Sr. Marina went to Don Bosco Parish at Dharan to conduct a prayer service for the parishioners. It was a great joy for all of us to have the presence of Sr. Marisa who came from Kathmandu. Along with Sr. Marisa our candidates also



joined us for lunch, before leaving for Kathmandu. Every visitor brings a blessing in disguise. We were delighted to have 15 female catechists who came for an outing from Azimganji Parish, India, along with three religious sisters. They spent two nights with us, and returned after two days.

– Sr. Celine Arulandhu

### Mary Ward, Jhamsikhel

After the initial Staff Meetings and planning, we re-opened the school on 17th May. We were happy to have the sound of laughter and fun once again in the compound with children running around. The new ones adjusted well though there are two (in the UKG) still crying at any time of the day. We are very grateful to the ASMAN members for being generous beyond measure in providing the students with uniforms, books, umbrellas, and stationary items.



We began compulsory Home Work time in the school, so that they complete all the written work in the school itself. All teachers are available to help and care for them during this period. During the regular monthly staff meetings we review their progress and discuss ways and means





to improve their study habits. Our students from the age of 5 to 12 were given the first dose of Covid 19 vaccination here in the school.

Sr. Neelu was invited to be with us for a meal to share the joy of her Silver Jubilee as none



of us could go to Sirsia for the celebrations. Sr. Charlie joined Sr. Marina for a vocation tour to the North East and visited many parishes and areas of possible vocations and returned with one candidate from Nagaland.

The tailoring department, once closed due to Covid, has started to function and we have now seven women and still new ones are joining.

The CJs and IBVMs who were in Kathmandu for the gathering visited us for a few minutes on a rainy day, and the one thing that was left for

a remembrance is a photo. Sr. Shobha has gone to Bangalore to join a Wisdom Group gathering of three batches of the First Professions.

- *Sr. Margaret Mary*

## CJ Nepal JPIC Unit

### The World Environment Day

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on June 5 since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. The Himalayan country, Nepal, too doesn't go backward in celebrating it in a befitting manner, especially in our CJ Schools in Nepal. Following is a short account of how we celebrated the day in our different educational institutions: -

#### St. Mary's, Biratnagar: -

On the World Environment Day, the school participated in a speech competition which was



organized by Biratnagar Municipality. Congratulations to our students who won the first place. This year we established an 'Environment Club' which is the need of the hour as our students see a lot of harm done to the environment.

#### St. Mary's, Gorkha: -

The Forest Department of Gorkha District offered us many saplings free of cost to be planted on World Environment Day. The students along with the sisters and teachers planted many saplings to promote the value of having more trees and saving the environment. The stu-





dents of the environment club put up an assembly during which they depicted the importance of trees through mimes, dances, skits as well as video presentations. All the students participated in a pre-arranged drawing competition in which they had to depict environmental degradation. The winners of the competition were awarded with prizes and certificates.

#### St. Mary's, Pokhara: -

A meaningful prayer Assembly was conducted by Class X to mark the day and the Bulletin Boards of the Four Houses were decorated for the occasion. The four Houses took part in the Wall Painting Competition. The students were so creative, expressive and artistic that they depicted well the theme of the year "Only One Earth" on the wall in front of the school. Various other competitions too were held in the school like poem recitation, I love my earth – photography, recycling of solid waste, creative art and craft, slogan writing, drawing on the environmental issues etc.

The JPIC - Student Unit had a beautiful painting of a huge tree on the Assembly ground with the theme written in the middle and with a drawing of the world map. The most exciting part



of the celebration was the Street Play organized by the Environment club members along with the teachers in Hallan Chowk – Lakeside with the theme of the year to bring awareness and to alert

the crowd of the impact of inhuman activities on Mother Earth, and the greediness and the chaos created by them.

#### St. Mary's, Kathmandu: -

To practise environment-friendly living, our students of Class VI, under the guidance of Mrs. Sabina Basnet, presented a short skit to kick off the celebrations on the World Environment Day. In addition, the first woman journalist to climb Mount Everest from both Nepal and China sides, Mrs. Kalpana Maharjan, was the keynote speaker at a brief program that the environment club organized in the auditorium. The determi-



nation of Kalpana Maharjan to conquer Everest despite all the difficulties impressed the students.

Some saplings were planted in our compound. Students actively engaged in various competitions, including rangoli, photography, collage, poster making, and illustrations on environmental awareness.

#### Mary Ward, Lubhu: -

The International Environment Day was celebrated with an organized assembly for all. In order to mark the day, we planted saplings by the





students as well as teachers.

### Mary Ward, Jhamsikhel:-

The Environment Day was celebrated on



a mini scale with a simple awareness Assembly and planting some plants in flower pots.

### The World Music Day/ Yoga Day

The World Music Day and the International Yoga Day were celebrated on the 21st of June in all our CJ Schools under the guidance of the members of JPIC.

The Music Day cherished the spirit of music, the vibrancy of vocals and the melody of in-



struments. The school Music Bands became quite vibrant on that day. The musical instruments produced a great orchestra which pleased one and all. Many tried to prove their musical abilities on that day.

This year the Yoga Day was celebrated with the theme 'Yoga for Humanity' across all the CJ schools in Nepal. The various asanas were performed by the students enthusiastically, and the importance of these asanas were explained simultaneously by the students.

The Music Day was celebrated in a befitting manner in St. Mary's, Pokhara, too. The students of Class X conducted a special program to mark the day with the performance of the Mu-

sic Band, Cup Song, Instrumental Music Show, Dance, Speech, PPT and Songs.

### Investiture Ceremony



To prepare the girls with leadership qualities and to enable them to help the administration to work for the all-round development of the students, all our schools gave orientation and training to the would-be



leaders and the leadership teams were installed during a solemn Investiture ceremony and it was a moment of pride and responsibility for the newly appointed captains to serve the school in their various capacities.

### CJ-IBVM UNION

### Journeying together to New Horizons to embrace the Unknown

The CJ/IBVM joint meet in Kathmandu was the initiation of the COIN/ IBVM leadership



to bring about union of hearts among the sisters in this part of the world. The Indo/Nepal Union meet began with 31 participants with Srs. Marilla IBVM, Smitha CJ, Sudha IBVM and Vinita CJ as the facilitators with the motto, 'Journeying Together'. The theme was the same as CJ GC





Theme, 'Honoring the past, Embracing the Present and Co-creating the future'.

The first three days were set apart for various sessions designed to know the two branches



of the Congregation in depth. The input sessions, group sharing and bonding walks helped one another to come closer and to know more of one



another. The Eucharistic celebrations presided over by Rev Bishop Paul Simick, Fr. Amrit Rai



Creating a gravestone makes us remember the dead and honour the precious life that they spent with us on this earth. New gravestones were erected for all our sisters who lie peacefully in the Jesuit Ashram in Godawari.



SJ (the Regional Superior of Nepal Jesuits) and Fr. Gerooge SJ (the superior of the Jesuit Ashram in Godawari) spiritually nourished us. The faith sharing every evening led us to go deeper into our faith experiences in life. The last two days were for sight-seeing and this too helped us to take one more step closer to the union. We ended this joint endeavor with some concrete action plans and all are eager to embrace the unknown ahead of us in this union process.

*-Vinita Mazhuvancherry*

**We wish all our readers  
a very happy feast of**

